

Message Text

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SUBJ: GOG STATEMENT O SISMIC AEGEAN AEGEAN TENSIONS WITH TURKEY

REF (A) ANKARA 5393, (B) ANKARA 5480

1. FOLLOWING A MEETING YESTERAY (JULY 16) OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE, THE GOG RELEASED A STATEMENT WARNING THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT FROM CARRYING OUT SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN DISPUTED AREA ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEW AGENCY BULLETIN:

BEGIN QUOTE:

"THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO TAKE STOCK AND WEIGHT THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ORBITRARY PLAN THREATENING TO CARRY OUT SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS IN AEGEAN REGIONS WHERE TURKEY HAS NO RIGHT TO DO SO, A GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT SAID YESTERDAY. THE ANNOUCEMENT WAS ISSUED AFTER A CABINET MEETING CHAIRED BY PREMIER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS, WHICH DEALT WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. IT SAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REFRAINS FROM ANSWERING

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ANKARA'S ALMOST DAILY STATEMENTS--SOMETIMES CONTRADICTORY AND SOMETIMES PROVOCATIVE--"BECAUSE IT BELIEVES THAT ALTERCATIONS NOT ONLY FAIL TO OVERCOME DIFFERENCES BUT MAKE THEIR SETTLEMENT MORE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT." "THE GREEK POSITIONS ARE QUITE CLEAR AND STATED IN GREECE'S PROPOSAL TO BRING THE DISPUTE OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT AT THE HAGUE, AS OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE DONE IN SIMILAR CASES." THE ANNOUNCEMENT FURTHER SAID THAT "15 MONTHS HAVE GONE BY AND TURKEY, ALTHOUGH IT HAD ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, HAS UNDER VARIOUS PRETEXTS POSTPONED THE SIGNING OF A JOINT UNDERTAKING WHICH WOULD PAVE THE ROAD TO THIS PEACEFUL AND FAIR PROCEDURE." "THEREFORE IT IS SURPRISING THAT, WHILE CONTACTS SOUGHT BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ARE CONTINUING, ANKARA THREATENS TO CARRY OUT SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS IN REGIONS WHERE SHE HAS NO RIGHT TO DO SO. IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ARBITRARINESS." THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, "WHICH, APART FROM OTHER THINGS, CONTRADICTS TURKEY CLAIMING SHE DESIRES A DIALOGUE." THE ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED: "THIS ARBITRARINESS IS NOT REMOVED BY THE CONFUSION THE TURKISH PRIME MINISTER CREATES --EITHER DELIBERATELY OR NOT--BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, WHICH ARE IN FACT TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS. EVEN THIS VERY CONFUSION," THE ANNOUNCEMENT ADDED, "CONFIRMS THE NEED FOR AN IMPARTIAL PROCEDURE IN THE DEMARCATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF PROPOSED BY GREECE." "THEREFORE," THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONCLUDED, "THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO TAKE STOCK AND WEIGH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ARBITRARY ACTION SHE PLANS." END QUOTE. KUBISCH

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